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**For Immediate Release**

## **Ground Broken for Second Facility in Plutonium Disposition Complex**

AIKEN, S.C., January 16, 2009 – Workers broke ground today for the second facility in the Savannah River Site's (SRS) plutonium disposition complex.

The Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF) is well under way, with construction having begun in August of 2007. The new facility is the Waste Solidification Building (WSB), which will process low-level and transuranic liquid waste streams from MFFF and pit disassembly operations.

“This begins the second step in safely disposing of our legacy plutonium,” says Chuck Munns, president and CEO of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS), the managing and operating contractor at SRS. “This is a relatively small facility by design, but it’s essential to the successful operation of MFFF and pit disassembly operations. The WSB allows us to safely and efficiently dispose of waste without adding to SRS’s waste system.”

In the WSB, material classified as transuranic (TRU) waste will be packaged and sent to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico. Low-level waste will be packaged and sent to disposal facilities either at SRS or off site.

The WSB will occupy about nine acres adjacent to the MOX site in F Area, near the center of SRS. It will be a concrete building about 200 feet long and 165 feet wide. The total estimated cost for design, construction and startup is \$345 million, which has been independently reviewed and validated. The facility is expected to begin operations in 2013.

SRS is owned by the Department of Energy.

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